

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/675,045

Applicant(s)

CRANE, RICHIE L.

Examiner

Art Unit

Angel R. Estrada

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on December 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 December 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-4 are:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a universal paint shield wherein said opposing edge portion have a concaved or inwardly contoured longitudinal edges which resiliently cooperate with said thin edge sections having a degree of resilience which allows them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to provide an only means of releasably retaining said paint shield over the assembly.

Regarding claim 2, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a universal paint shield wherein said edge portions along the lengths thereof arcuately inwardly contoured cooperating with said thin edge sections to provide a degree of resilience which allows them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to securely releasably retain said panel shield in a deployed position over the assembly.

Regarding claims 3-4, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a universal paint shield wherein said edge portions have an opposing inwardly contoured longitudinal edges spaced apart at central portions thereof a distance just slightly less than a corresponding or width of the cover plate and of sufficient resilience to allow them to be force fitted over the

corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate for biased releasable retention of said paint shield in a deployed position over the cover plate.

These limitations were found in claims 1-4, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, filed on December 23, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument the Examiner agrees that neither Skakun (US 6,803,522) nor the cited prior art disclose, teach or suggest a universal paint shield where said opposing edge portions have a concaved or inwardly contoured longitudinal edges having a degree of resilience which allow them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surface of the cover plate to provide an only means of releasably retaining said paint shield over the assembly.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

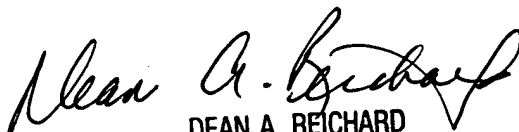
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AE

March 18, 2005

 3/21/05
DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800